Case 5:21-cv-05046 Page 1 of 12

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS				
Kersaint Bernard		Werner Enterprises, Inc.				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Allentown				
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.				
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	ddress, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)				
	erg, 815 Greenwood Ave., Ste. 22					
	19046, (215) 576-0100					
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff						
1 U.S. Government	■ 3 Federal Question	(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF				
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This State				
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 5 of Business In Another State				
		Citizen or Subject of a 3 5 Foreign Nation 6 6 Foreign Country				
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions. BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES				
CONTRACT	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY					
120 Marine	310 Airplane 365 Personal Injury -	of Property 21 USC 881 423 Withdrawal 376 Qui Tam (31 USC				
130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product Product Liability Liability 367 Health Care/	690 Other 28 USC 157 3729(a)) INTELLECTUAL 400 State Reapportionment				
150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault, Libel & Pharmaceutical	PROPERTY-RIGHTS 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking				
& Enforcement of Judgment	Slander Personal Injury 330 Federal Employers' Product Liability	830 Patent 450 Commerce				
152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability 368 Asbestos Personal	835 Patent - Abbreviated 460 Deportation				
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	340 Marine Injury Product Liability	840 Trademark Corrupt Organizations				
153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability PERSONAL PROPERT	(15.119C 1691 or 1603)				
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	350 Motor Vehicle 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending	Act of 2010 485 Telephone Consumer				
190 Other Contract	Product Liability 380 Other Personal 360 Other Personal Property Damage	720 Labor/Management Protection Act Relations 861 HIA (1395ff) 490 Cable/Sat TV				
195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	Injury 385 Property Damage	740 Railway Labor Act 862 Black Lung (923) 850 Securities/Commodities/				
	362 Personal Injury - Product Liability Medical Malpractice	751 Family and Medical 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) Exchange Leave Act 864 SSID Title XVI 890 Other Statutory Actions				
REAL PROPERTY:	REACTIVITERIGHTS RESERVED PRISONER PETITION					
210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure	440 Other Civil Rights Habeas Corpus: 441 Voting 463 Alien Detainee	791 Employee Retirement 893 Environmental Matters Income Security Act SEPERATEDERAL 895 Freedom of Information				
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	■ 442 Employment 510 Motions to Vacate	870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff Act				
240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	443 Housing/ Sentence Accommodations 530 General	or Defendant) 896 Arbitration 891 IRS—Third Party 899 Administrative Procedure				
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities - 535 Death Penalty	IMMIGRATION 26 USC 7609 Act/Review or Appeal of				
	Employment Other: 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - 540 Mandamus & Other					
	Other 550 Civil Rights	Actions State Statutes				
	448 Education 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -					
	Conditions of Confinement					
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)						
Toriginal 2 Removed from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District Litigation - Transfer 5 Transfer 5 Transfer 5 Multidistrict Litigation - Court						
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):						
VI_CALISE OF ACTION 42 U.S.C. 2000-1-e, et seq						
Discrimination in employment						
VII. REQUESTED IN ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☐ No						
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGEDOCKET NUMBER						
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD						
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY						
RECEIPT # A	MOUNT -APPLYING IFP_	JUDGE MAG. JUDGE				

Case 5:21-cv-05046 UNISEDISTATIES @ISTRICT| COURT/16/21 Page 2 of 12 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 1223 FAUNCE STREET, PHILADELPHIA PA 1911							
Address of Defendant: 5448 OAKVIEW DRIVE, ALLENTOWN, PA 1-8104							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: ALLENTOWN, PA							
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:							
Case Number: Judge: Date Terminated:							
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:							
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year Yes No No							
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Yes No Yes							
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?							
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No No							
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.							
DATE: Whist sign here Leou 43 Altorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney 1.D. # (if applicable)							
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) A. Federal Ouestion Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:							
Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts Insurance Contract and Other Contracts Insurance Contra							
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)							
I, MARC A . WE INSERG., counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:							
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:							
exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:							

IN THE UNTIED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

KERSAINT BERNARD

1223 Faunce Street

Philadelphia, PA 19111

Plaintiff, : Civil Action

v. : Jury Trial Demanded

WERNER ENTERPRISES, INC.

5448 Oakview Drive Allentown, PA 18104

and

14507 Frontier Road

Omaha, NE 68138

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff, Kersaint Bernard brings this action under Title VII of the Civil Rights
Act of 1964, as amended 42 U.S.C. § 2000-1 e-1 et seq ("Title VII") for Race discrimination,
National Origin discrimination, and Retaliation, The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S.
§954, et seq, and pursuant to applicable Pennsylvania common law. Plaintiff seeks equitable
relief, compensatory and punitive damages, costs and attorney's fees from Defendant for
Defendant's discriminatory practices, retaliation, and other tortious actions.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Jurisdiction over this action is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §1331, 1343 and 42 U.S.C. §2000 e-5(f).
- 3. Plaintiff has complied with all jurisdictional prerequisites including those set forth in 42 U.S.C. §2000 e-5 and was issued a Notice of Right to Sue by the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission on August 30, 2021. (Exhibit "A").

- 4. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000 e-5.
- 5. At all times material hereto, Werner Enterprises, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant") was "engaged in an industry affecting commerce" within the meanings of §701(a) and 701(b) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §2000e.
 - 6. At all times material hereto, Defendant employed more than 15 employees.
- 7. At all times material hereto, Defendants was an "employer" as defined by §701(b) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §2000 e.
- 8. At all times material hereto, Defendant was an "employer" as defined by §4 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §954.
- 9. At all times material hereto, Defendant was an "employer" of Plaintiff as defined by §5 of Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 P.S. §955.
- 10. At all times material hereto, the Defendant's discrimination occurred within the district of this Court and in the City of Allentown.

III. THE PARTIES

- 11. Plaintiff, Kersaint Bernard (hereinafter "Bernard"), is an adult male who is African America and of Haitian origin.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant operates a transportations and logistics company with company addresses at 5448 Oakview Drive, Allentown, PA 18104 and corporate headquarters located at 14507 Frontier Road, Omaha, NE 68138.
 - 13. Upon information and belief, Ethan Schneider (hereinafter "Schneider"), a

Caucasian male, was employed by Defendant, and at all times material hereto had the authority to discipline and terminate Plaintiff.

14. At all times material hereto, the discrimination enumerated within this Complaint occurred within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Defendants', location in Pennsylvania.

IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 15. Plainitff, Kersaint Bernard was an employee of Werner Enterprises, Inc. employed as a truck driver.
- 16. Mr. Bernard was hired in or about March 1, 2019, and was constructively discharged in or about September, 2020.
- 17. Mr. Bernard's termination was in direct violation of 42 U.S.C. § 2000-1 e-1 et seq ("Title VII") for Racial Discrimination, National Origin Discrimination and Retaliation.
 - 18. Plaintiff is a Haitian male, who speaks with a pronounced Haitain accent.
- 19. During the course and scope of his employment, Plaintiff was subjected to ongoing and continuous discrimination, based upon his race and national origin. Plaintiff was falsely accused of being involved in car accidents on three (3) occasions.
- 20. On one occasion, Plaintiff's Caucasian supervisor, Ethan Schneider became irate with the Plaintiff during a telephone conversation, yelling that he "could not understand" the Plaintiff and slammed the phone down on the Plaintiff.
- 21. Additionally, Plaintiff would be offered trucking loads, which would be cancelled when Plaintiff's run was halfway completed, which resulted in Plaintiff not being paid for the loads.
 - 22. Other employees, who did not have Haitian accents were treated more favorably

than the Plaintiff.

- Upon information and belief, Schneider attempted to transfer Plaintiff to the Philadelphia, PA location of the Defendant, but only after Schneider informed the Philadelphia Police that Plaintiff was not permitted to be at the Philadelphia location.
 - 24. Upon information and belief, Schneider was attempting to have Plaintiff arrested.
- 25. In or about September, 2020, Plaintiff was forced to quit his position, due to the ongoing and repeated discrimination he suffered at the hands of the Defendant.
- 26. Bernard was profoundly upset and affected by the discrimination, harassment and hostile work environment that he was subjected to during the course and scope of his employment.
- During the course and within the scope of his employment with Defendant, was treated less favorably than similarly situated, non Black employees.
- 28. At all times material hereto, Schneider aided and abetted the aforementioned harassment, hostile work environment and discrimination to which Bernard was subjected.
- 29. The aforementioned conduct of Defendant was materially adverse and would dissuade a reasonable worker from exercising and/or attempting to exercise their rights and benefits under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000, et seq. and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 33 P.S. §951, et seq.
- 30. Defendants had a continued need for the work that Plaintiff had been performing.
- 31. Notwithstanding, Plaintiff's complaints and clear indication to Defendant that the aforesaid comments and conduct were unwelcome, unwanted and upsetting, the harassing

conduct continued throughout the course of his employment with Defendants.

- 32. At no time did Defendant, or any of the principles, supervisors, managers, officers, directors, or agents of Defendant, institute an effective grievance procedure designed to eliminate racial discrimination of employees and no reasonable steps were taken to prevent the same in the workplace; and if said policy existed; Defendant failed to follow any requirements of said policy.
- 33. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's aforesaid acts and omissions, the hostile work environment which was created thereby, and Defendant's discriminatory practices, Plaintiff:
 - (a) was constructively discharged from his employment to his great financial detriment
 - (b) was caused pain and suffering, physical injury and a loss of enjoyment of life; and
 - (c) suffered severe emotional distress, embarrassment, humiliation and depression.

COUNT I KERSAINT BERNARD V. WERNER ENTERPRISES, INC. VIOLATION OF TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000

- 34. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all of the aforementioned allegations set forth above.
- 35. The conduct of Defendant and Schneider's treatment of Bernard in his employment violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000, *et seq* as the harassment, hostile work environment, retaliation and discrimination was based upon his Race

and National Origin.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Kersaint Bernard, demands judgment against Defendant, Werner Enterprises, Inc., including:

- (a) A declaration that Defendant's actions as described herein violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- (b) equitable and declaratory relief requiring Defendant, to institute sensitivity and other training for all managers, employees and supervisors to prevent racial harassment and discrimination and retaliation in the workplace;
- (c) equitable and declaratory relief requiring Defendant to institute and enforce a specific policy and procedure for investigating and preventing complaints relating to racial harassment and discrimination and retaliation;
- (d) equitable and declaratory relief requiring the posting of notices on the premises so that employees will know and understand their rights and remedies, including official company policy;
- (e) compensatory damages for Plaintiff's loss of past and present future income and benefits, pain and suffering inconvenience, embarrassment, emotional distress and loss of enjoyment of life;
 - (f) punitive damages;
- (g) payment of interest and Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs associated with bring the claim; and
 - (h) such other relief as this Court may deem appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT II KERSAINT BERNARD V. WERNER ENTERPRISES, INC. VIOLATION OF PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT 33 PS 955, ET SEQ.

- 36. All aforementioned paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 37. The conduct of Defendant's treatment of Bernard in his employment violated the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act 33 P.S. 955, et seq, as Bernard's harassment, hostile work environment, retaliation and discrimination was based upon his Race and National Origin.
- 38. Defendants' employment practices deprived Plaintiff of equal employment opportunities and otherwise affected her status as an employee because of his race and national origin.
- As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions, conduct and omissions, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages set forth herein past and future earnings, income, benefits, and opportunities as well as pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, mental anguish, embarrassment and a loss of enjoyment of life's pleasure.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Bernard demands judgment against Defendant, including:

- (a) a declaration that Defendant's actions as described herein violated The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act;
- (b) equitable and declaratory relief requiring Defendant to institute sensitivity and other training for all managers, employees and supervisors to prevent harassment and discrimination in the workplace;
- (c) equitable and declaratory relief requiring Defendant to institute and enforce a specific policy and procedure for investigating and preventing complaints;

(d) equitable and declaratory relief requiring the posing of notices on the premises so that employees will know and understand their rights and remedies, including the official

company policy;

(e) compensatory damages for Plaintiff's loss of past and future income and

benefits, pain and suffering, inconveniences, embarrassment, emotional distress and loss of

enjoyment of life, plus interest;

(f) payment of interest and Plaintiff's attorney's fees and costs associated with

bringing this claim; and

(g) such other relief as this Court my deem appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

SAFFREN & WEINBERG

BY:

MARCA. WEINBERG, ESQUIRE

Pa. Atty. I.D. No.: 60643

815 Greenwood Avenue, Suite 22

Jenkintown, PA 19046

(215) 576-0100

mweinberg@saffwein.com

EXHIBIT A

EEOC Form 161 (11/2020)

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF TRICITIO						
To: Kersaint Bernard 1223 Faunce Street Philadelphia, PA 19111		From	Philadelphia District Office 801 Market Street Suite 1000 Philadelphia, PA 19107			
		rson(s) aggrieved whose identity is L (29 CFR §1601.7(a))				
EEOC Charge	e No.	EEOC Representative		Telephone No.		
530-2021-02030		Legal Unit, Legal Technician		(267) 589-9700		
THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:						
The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.						
Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.						
	The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.					
	Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the allegand discrimination to file your charge					
X	The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the clai have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.					
	The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.					
	Other (briefly state)					
- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS - (See the additional information attached to this form.)						
Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)						
Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.						
		On behalf of the Co	ommission			
		Dana R. Mil	to	08/30/2021		
Enclosures(s)		Dana R. Hutter, Deputy Director		(Date Issued)		
CC:		8.8	. A Mainhara Esa			

Jennifer Petersen Sr Labor and Employment Counsel Werner Enterprises, Inc. 14507 FRONTIER RD WERNER ENTERPRISES Omaha, NE 68138 Marc A. Weinberg, Esq. SAFFREN & WEINBERG 815 Greenwood Avenue, Suite 22 Jenkintown, PA 19046